

T +44 (0) 1624 811747
F +44(0)1624 817695
E mail@friendsandheroes.com
W www.friendsandheroes.com



Friends & Heroes
Productions Ltd
Lough House
Approach Road
Ramsey
ISLE OF MAN
IM8 1RG

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Macky and Portia make an impact down under!

Friends and Heroes, the award-winning TV series for 5-11 year olds which tells Bible stories in every episode, is loved by children all around the world. A story from an Anglican Church in New Zealand shows just how irresistible children find the series.

The church in Kawerau, Bay of Plenty, had no children in its congregation, but an encounter with Friends and Heroes made all the difference! Jenny Reynolds, the vicar, decided to try the programmes after she heard about it from a parishioner who had seen it advertised in a UK Christian magazine.

She says, "We began the series in early September 2009 and continued it once a week after school during term 4. We had a total of 42 children attend the programme and a number of these have had 100% attendance. It has been received by the children with enthusiasm."

The church advertised it as being suitable for 5 to 10 year olds but found that children between the ages of 2 to 11 attended because some came as families. The children loved watching the adventures of Macky and Portia and the Bible stories, which are told in amazing 3D computer generated animation and are woven seamlessly into each episode

Last Christmas the church was able to have a children's Christmas play for the first time in 10 years. Jenny says, *"The videos are excellent and hold their attention well as does the resource material that accompanies each video. They also like the weekly quizzes which I find are a good way of recapping on the story from the previous week."*

David Dorricott, Executive Producer of Friends and Heroes added, *"Kids love cartoons and the Bible stories in each Friends and Heroes episode are a great way for children who have no church background to hear the Christian message. The fun doesn't stop with the DVDs! There is also a children's website at www.friendsandheroes.tv where children can find puzzles, biographies of Friends and Heroes characters and Biblical characters, downloads, games and great material to support projects on the Roman and Biblical periods of history."*

Three Friends and Heroes Series Packs are available; each pack costs £89.99 and includes 13 episodes, a lifetime series Public Display Licence and access to the Bible lesson material. Packs are available from www.friendsandheroes.com and from Christian bookshops and DVD sellers.

Additional information about Friends and Heroes can be found on the following websites:

www.friendsandheroes.com www.friendsandheroes.tv

To arrange interviews with members of the production team contact:

DAVE CARLOS - Marketing Director

Telephone at the show: 07713 622265

Email: dave.carlos@friendsandheroes.com